

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Block Island School
August 20, 2012
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 20, 2012, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, Sean McGarry, and William Padien. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Hall, Doyle) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 23, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mr. Hicks reported that Karen Kurzman will not be returning as the co-principal because she found a full-time position on the mainland and is being appointed this evening. A listing for an anticipated opening has already been placed on SchoolSpring and 17 applications have been received. If there is not enough time for a full search, including interviews, Mr. Hicks will have a substitute principal begin the year.

Several roof leaks occurred during the recent thunderstorms and torrential rains. Most of the leaks are in the library and high school areas, but they have also caused issues with our alarm system. Scott Nelson is developing a repair plan to address these issues, but especially for those that are required to open school on time.

Mr. Hicks and Mr. Canole put the finishing touches on the letter today to parents regarding the new schedule. The arrival time will be five minutes earlier to accommodate breakfast. Any student arriving early (prior to 7:50 a.m.) will report to the cafeteria. Both staff and students are voicing some concerns/anxiety over the new schedule. Mr. Hicks had very limited response to requests for Friday afternoon activities. It was suggested that CCD or Girl Scouts could move to Friday and a ceramics program is being discussed. The town library may offer some programs on Friday afternoons as well. It was suggested that a survey be sent to parents to see if there really is a need to provide activities on Fridays.

Transition to North Kingstown technology support is going well. The Gmail account is up and running and data conversions from Rediker to Aspen are being done with all students except incoming kindergarten now in the new system. Sue Gibbons and Shannon Booth will attend the Aspen training on grade book and attendance next Monday in North Kingstown.

Nathaniel Shaw, the new math teacher, has found housing for the school year. He has been working with Kristine Monje on the CCSS.

A draft finance report through June 30, 2012, was submitted for School Committee review. Mr. Hicks stated that the year ended more positively than expected (\$100,329). This came mostly from salaries. Sean McGarry questioned why an expensive piece of equipment was purchase before the committee had a chance to discuss it in open session. Mr. Hicks stated that rentals and used

equipment were researched, but were not economically feasible. If the equipment hadn't been purchased when it was, the school would not be clean and ready to open on September 4. A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept the draft finance report through June 30, 2012, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo regarding the possible energy projects proposed by Johnson Controls through the Washington County Regional Planning Council. After including this item on the agenda, Mr. Hicks learned that the town had decided not to participate in any of the projects. He would, however, like to continue to investigate the possibility of installing a new kitchen hood.

New Business

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo to the School Committee regarding his review of the By-laws, which are the policies beginning with "B". He went through and identified where they might be out of date, practices not current or followed, or out of sync with legislative regulations. He did not make any specific text recommendations, but brought items he thought needed to be updated. He suggested deleting some and merging others. Mr. Hicks will include updated/revised policies on next month's agenda.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to accept with regret the resignation of Patricia Balles as the administrative assistant for the special education and guidance departments carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo requesting that the School Committee renew the contract with Trane for one year for inspection and maintenance services of our HVAC system. This would give Mr. Nelson a chance to research contract options without locking us into a two- or three-year commitment. The cost of the extension is \$13,230. A motion (Connor, Hall) to approve the renewal of the contract with Trane for one year carried with a vote of 5-0.

Calendar of Events

The annual back to school breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 29 at the 1661 Inn. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 18, 2012.

Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Becky Bessette, Administrator of the Child Nutrition Programs at RIDE, informing us that there were no negative findings during our recent lunch program review.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:21 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: September 18, 2012